

Memo. of the means of observations made at Turan Mull, for the month of May, 1851.

Long. 74.34 E. Lat. 21.52 N. Alt. 3208 ft.

Observations made at Sunrise.			Maximum pressure observed at 10 A. M.			Minimum pressure observed at 4 P. M.			Observations made at Sunset.			Observations made at 10 P. M.			Maximum and Minimum Thermometer.			Maximum Therm. in Sun's rays.	
Temperature.			Temperature.			Temperature.			Temperature.			Temperature.							
Barometer.	Mercury.	Wet Bulb.	Barometer.	Mercury.	Wet Bulb.	Barometer.	Mercury.	Wet Bulb.	Barometer.	Mercury.	Wet Bulb.	Barometer.	Mercury.	Wet Bulb.	Maximum.	Mean.	Minimum.	Under glass.	Freely exposed.
26.76	70.22	66.88	26.80	77.48	76.16	26.76	86.11	82.43	26.75	84.45	82.32	26.74	80.74	77.58	85.47	77.78	70.14	135.25	115.89

The prevalent winds during the month, from the S. W. and W.

F. A. V. THURBURN, *Lieut.*

Notice of a collection of Mammalia, Birds, and Reptiles, procured at or near the station of Chérra Punji in the Khásia hills, north of Sylhet.—By E. BLYTH, Esq.

For an opportunity of examining a few of the animal inhabitants of the little explored Khásia hills, we are indebted to Mr. R. W. G. Frith, who, during a late visit to Chérra Punji, collected specimens of the following species, which he has brought down either living, preserved in spirit, or their prepared skins.

MAMMALIA.

PRESBYTIS PILEATUS, nobis, *J. A. S.*, XII, 174, XIII, 467, XVI, 735. Procured at Cherra Punji.

DYSOPUS PLICATUS, (B. Ham.) An example in spirit, nearly as dark-coloured as the Malayan race termed *D. TENUIS*, (Horsfield), which, we think, differs not, otherwise than in being constantly of a much darker hue than the ordinary *D. PLICATUS* of India.

NYCTICEJUS ORNATUS, nobis, *n. s.* A large and robustly formed typical species, of uncommon beauty. In colouring, it is affined to

N. TICKELLI, nobis, p. 157, *ante*; but is altogether stronger, with conspicuously larger and stronger feet, and remarkably elongated ears. It also does not possess the peculiar small flat incisor, situate posteriorly to the contact of the ordinary large upper incisor and the canine, seen in N. TICKELLI. Colour, a bright pale rusty isabelline-brown above, (the piles black for the basal fourth, then whitish, with rusty extremities,) less vivid on the lower half of the back, and somewhat paler below; a pure silky white spot on the centre of the forehead, others on each shoulder and axilla above, and a narrow stripe of the same along the middle of the back; face below the forehead deep brown, including the chin: a broad white demi-collar over the throat from ear to ear; and beneath this is a dark brown demi-collar of similar extent (passing in a narrow streak upward to the chin), and below this again a narrower pure silky white one, commencing from the shoulders—which below it are again deep brown, continued round to separate the ends of the white band below from the white axillary spot above. Membranes marked as in N. TICKELLI, or black except the interfemoral which is tawny-red, as also a portion of the lateral membranes towards the body, and the entire limbs and digits. Ear-conch elongate-oval, erect, with tragus a fourth of its length, narrow, semi-lunate, and curved to the front. Length (of an adult female) $4\frac{3}{4}$ in., of which the tail measures $1\frac{7}{8}$ in.; expanse $14\frac{1}{2}$ in.; fore-arm $2\frac{1}{4}$ in.; longest finger $3\frac{7}{8}$ in.; tibia $\frac{7}{8}$ in.; foot with claws $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Ears externally $\frac{5}{8}$ in.; tragus $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Procured at Chérra Punji.

TALPA LEUCURA, nobis, *J. A. S.* XIX, 215. Of this recently described species, Mr. Frith has brought thirty-three specimens in spirit, all true to the distinctive characters indicated. In none does the head and body exceed $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length. The species, however, inhabits the plain of Sylhet, and not Chérra Punji as formerly stated.

SOREX PEYROTETII (?), Duvernoy. A headless specimen, affixed to a thorn by some Shrike, as we have several times observed of the common British Shrew by LANIUS COLLURIO. Colour darker than usual; but otherwise it appears identical with specimens we have seen from various parts, as Almorah, S. India, Maulmein, &c. It is the smallest of all known mammalia.

TUPAIA FERRUGINEA, var. BELANGERI; *Tupaie de Pegu*, Lesson, *Zool. de Belanger*, t. 4; *Cladobates Belangeri*, Wagner. This race,

which abounds in Arakan and the Tenasserim provinces, merely differs from the common *T. FERRUGINEA*, Raffles, of the Malayan peninsula, in being less deeply tinged (and often not at all so) with maronne on the upper-parts; the colouring being much as in *T. JAVANICA*, but still having a decided rufous cast as compared with this little species, which likewise is common about Malacca and Singapore, though unnoticed in Dr. Cantor's list of the mammalia of the Malayan peninsula. We cannot regard *T. BELANGERI* as distinct from *T. FERRUGINEA*; and we have not previously seen it from so northern a locality as Chérra Punji, though it probably also inhabits Asám. The species of Central and Southern India, *T. ELLIOTI*, Waterhouse, is a much larger animal, equal in size to *T. TANA* (v. *CLADOBATES SPECIOSUS*, Wagner), of the Archipelago; and the only remaining species of this genus hitherto discovered is the strongly marked *T. MURINA*, (Diard), from the Western Coast of Borneo, figured by Dr. S. Müller and M. Temminck.

RHIZOMYS PRUINOSUS, nobis, *n. s.* So far as can be judged from external characters, this quite resembles *RH. BADIUS*, Hodgson, of the vicinity of Darjiling, and *RH. CASTANEUS*, nobis, *J. A. S. XII*, 1007, of Arakan, except in being very differently coloured: the fur being uniformly dusky-slate above and below, with hoary tips, which latter are of somewhat coarser texture; on the belly there is a slight silvery shade. All three differ from *RH. SUMATRENSIS* (v. *cinereus*, McClelland,) of the Tenasserim provinces and Malayan peninsula, in being much less robust, having a much shorter tail, and a dense coat of fine soft fur instead of a thin coat of bristly fur; but their structural characters are essentially the same. An example of the present race was long ago forwarded to the Society from Chérra Punji by F. Skipwith, Esq., C. S.; but we deferred describing it until seeing additional specimens. Mr. Skipwith's specimen having old and faded fur is much browner and less slaty than those obtained by Mr. Frith in newly renovated pelage; but the hoary tips are conspicuous in all. It is extremely common at Chérra Punji.

ATHERURA MACROURA? (L.; nec *Hystrix fasciculata*, Shaw): *Hystrix spicifera*, Buch. Ham., *MS.* The different Asiatic species of this genus remain to be fully discriminated. Mr. Waterhouse refers the Siamese race, with a terminal tail-tuft of "long flattened

bristles (somewhat resembling thin and narrow strips of whale bone)," to *Hystrix fasciculata*, Shaw (v. *H. macroura*, Gervais), and he states this to inhabit "Siam and the Malayan peninsula." It is doubtless the species figured, evidently from life, by Gen. Hardwicke: but, if inhabiting the Malayan peninsula, it must co-exist there with *ATH. MACROURA*, (L.), apud Waterhouse, which has "the apex of the tail provided with a large tuft of flat bristles, which are spirally twisted, and alternately contracted and expanded." This Mr. Waterhouse gives doubtfully from Sumatra; and it is certainly the common Brush-tailed Porcupine of the Malayan peninsula. In the Chittagong, Tippera, and Khásya hills, there is a very similar race to the last, but with the spines shorter and less coarse, excepting those of the croup, the *ensemble* of the colouring greyer, and the enamel of the front-teeth pale yellow instead of deep buff or orange-yellow. On minute comparison of the skulls, the frontals of the Malayan race are seen to be somewhat larger and more convex, while the parietals are proportionally smaller, than in the Northern race: the palatal foramen, also, is narrower and advances more forward in the former; and the inferior lateral process of the superior maxillary, forming the lower border of the great ant-orbital foramen, is, in the Malayan race, given off anteriorly to the position of the first molar, while in the Northern race it abuts directly on the first molar. If distinct, it should bear the name *SPICIGERA* given to it by Buchanan Hamilton, who has excellently figured and prepared a good MS. description of it, founded on a living pair received from Chittagong. "They were brought," he was informed, "from the hills; and, so far as the donor (Mr. Macrae) understands, their habits are pretty much the same as those of the Porcupine of the plains. Both burrow in the earth, live upon roots, and are found either in pairs or families." A specimen brought from Chérra Punji by Mr. Frith corresponds exactly with Buchanan Hamilton's coloured figure.

AVES.

Of birds, the most remarkable are two new species of *GARRULAX*,—one of *SUTHORA*,—the *SIBIA GRACILIS*, (McClelland and Horsfield,) now first verified,—and *SPIZIXOS CANIFRONS*, nobis, *J. A. S. XIV*, 571. The only specimen we had previously seen of the last named species, although apparently in good order when the description of it

was taken, was soon afterwards completely destroyed by insects, from the skin not having been properly prepared with poison. Mr. Frith has now obtained a fine skin, and also an entire specimen in spirit, this bird proving to be common at Cherra Punji. Length 8 in., by $10\frac{3}{4}$ in. expanse; wing $3\frac{5}{8}$ in.

We have seen a figure of a second and crestless species of this strongly marked genus, from upper Asám.

SIBIA GRACILIS; *Hypsipetes gracilis*, McClelland and Horsfield, *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1839, p. 159; *J. A. S.* XVI, 449. Resembles *S. CAPISTRATA* (*Cinclosoma capistratum*, Vigors, v. *S. nigriceps*, Hodgson), except that there is no rufous about it, beyond a faint tinge of this hue on the flanks and lower tail-coverts; the feathers proceeding from the lateral base of the lower mandible, also, are white, though the lores and ear-coverts are uniform black with the crown. General hue of the upper-parts dark ashy (nearly as in *S. PICOIDES*), paler on the rump and collar; below white, sullied with grey on the sides of the breast and flanks: wings and tail as in *S. CAPISTRATA*, except that the glossy margins of the secondaries are much darker, and the tertials are dark ashy margined externally with black. Bill black: feet brown, with darker toes.

GARRULAX MERULINUS, nobis, *n. s.* General colour deep olive-brown, the medial portion of the under-parts pale rufescent whitish-brown, and spotted with black on the throat and upper-part of the breast, much as in *Turdus musicus*; a narrow white streak behind the eye. Irides whitish-brown. Bill dusky-plumbeous. Legs brown, with albescent toes. Length $9\frac{1}{2}$ in.; expanse of wings 12 in.; closed wing $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; tail $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; bill to gape $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.; tarse $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. Common at Chérra Punji, from whence Mr. Frith has brought several living examples both of this and of the next species.

G. RUFICAPILLUS, nobis, *n. s.* Nearly affined to *G. ERYTHROCEPHALUS*, (Vigors), from which it is distinguished by having the chin and broad supercilia ash-grey; forehead greyish; throat, front of neck, and breast, rufous, with an admixture of golden-yellow on the last: no black spots on the nape and breast, but darker lunate markings in place of them: rest as in *G. ERYTHROCEPHALUS*, to which *G. CHRYSOPTERUS*, (Gould), inhabiting an intermediate range of territory, is also closely affined. Common at Chérra Punji.

SUTHORA POLIOTIS, nobis, *n. s.* Like *S. NIPALENSIS* (vide *J. A. S.* XII, plate to p. 450), but the lower ear-coverts and sides of the neck are pure ashy, paler on the breast, and passing to white on the abdomen; lores and sides of face, with the plumes growing from the base of the lower mandible, pure white: crown bright fulvous, passing to duller fulvous on the back: wings coloured as in *S. NIPALENSIS*, but the coverts of the secondaries uniformly fulvous with the back; a fulvous spot behind the eye and below the black supercilium, but no trace of rufous on the cheeks; chin black, with whitish margins, as in *S. NIPALENSIS*: bill yellowish; and feet pale. Common at Chérra Punji.

There are, accordingly, now three nearly affined races of these curious little birds, besides the larger *S. RUFICEPS* (*Chleusasicus ruficeps*, nobis, *J. A. S.* XIV, 578), which generically is barely separable.

Of the other birds collected by Mr. Frith at Chérra Punji, the only species we had not previously examined is *PTERUTHIUS MELANOTIS*, Hodgson, *J. A. S.* XVI, 448. The rest are *GECINUS CHLOROPUS*, *MEGALAIMA VIRENS*, *HARPACTES ERYTHROCEPHALUS* (in spirit), *DENDROCITTA SINENSIS*, *GARRULAX LEUCOLOPHOS*, *G. ALBOGULARIS*, *G. SQUAMATUS*, *G. PHENICEUS*, *ACTINODURA EGERTONII*, *LEIOTHRIX ARGENTOURIS*, *L. LUTEUS*, *L. CYANOUROPTERUS*, *L. CASTANICEPS*, *PARUS SPILONOTUS*, *STACHYRIS NIGRICEPS*, *ST. CHRYSÆA*, *POMATORHINUS PHAYREI* (with fine coral-orange bill), *P. RUFICOLLIS*, *ÆNICURUS MACULATUS*, *ABRORNIS SCHISTICEPS*, *PSARISOMA DALHOUSIÆ*, *LEUCOCERCA FUSCOVENTRIS*, *HYPSSIPETES MACLELLANDII*, *HEMIXOS FLAVALA*, *IOLE VIRESCENS*, and *ORIOBUS INDICUS*. These are mostly species common in the neighbourhood of Darjiling; but *POMATORHINUS PHAYREI* and *IOLE VIRESCENS* we had previously only seen from Arakan; and *ORIOBUS INDICUS* is chiefly an inhabitant of the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal, though, as a rarity, it is now and then met with in Lower Bengal. A large proportion of the above named species are common in Arakan.

[The following descriptions of new species of birds may be here appended.

GARRULAX (?), *JERDONI*, nobis. Resembles *G. (?) CACHINNANS*, Jerdon, except that there is no trace of rufous on the cheeks, fore-neck and breast, the black of the chin is also less developed, and the nape is of a dull ashy hue: fore-neck and breast paler ashy, passing to whitish on the ear-coverts. The medial abdominal feathers only are rufous; those of the flanks, back, wings and tail are olive as in *G. (?) CACHINNANS*, and the head, lores, and supercilia are likewise similar. The

form of the bill and the general characters of these two species, from S. India, indicate that they should form a separate division from GARRULAX proper. G. BELANGERI, Jerdon, of the Nilgiris, and G. CINE-REIFRONS, nobis (p. 176, ante), of Ceylon, are typical GARRULACES.

CISTICOLA ERYTHROCEPHALA, Jerdon. General hue rufous or ferruginous, deepest on the crown, darker on the rump, and brightish on all the lower-parts; back olive, with black medial streaks to the feathers; and wings and tail dusky, the former margined with olive-brown, and the latter very slightly tipped or margined round the extremity of the feathers, with pale brown. Legs pale. Wing $1\frac{7}{8}$ in: tail $1\frac{5}{8}$ in. This and the preceding species have just been received from Mr. Jerdon, and are, most probably, from the Nilgiris. Accordingly, three species of CISTICOLA will now have been ascertained from S. India and Ceylon, viz. the common C. CURSITANS, C. OMALURA, nobis (p. 176, ante), from Ceylon, and that here described.

CYORNIS ÆQUALICAUDA, nobis. Female somewhat greyish-brown above, much paler below, whitish towards the vent and on the lower tail-coverts; axillaries also whitish with a faint tinge of fulvous: tail and its upper coverts dull ferruginous, the medial rectrices and exterior webs of the rest sullied with fuscous. Bill dark above, whitish below; feet dark brown. Length about $5\frac{1}{2}$ in., of wing 3 in., and tail $2\frac{1}{4}$ in.: bill to gape $\frac{1}{16}$ in.; and tarse $\frac{5}{8}$ in. A well marked distinct species, procured by Lieut. James, of the 28th B. N. I., in Kunáwar.

SAXICOLA FUSCA, nobis. Evidently a new species of true Wheatear, affined in colouring to S. INFUSCATA, A. Smith; but the general colour deeper, and the head, cheeks, and throat, rufescent: tail also remarkably long, for a species of this genus. We can only describe the fragments of a specimen, viz. the head, wings, tail, and legs. Wing $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.; tail 3 in.: bill to gape $\frac{7}{8}$ in.; From Muttra.]

REPTILIA.

Of this class, Mr. Frith brought five species, as follow:—

1. PLATYDACTYLUS GECKO, (L.), vide *J. A. S.* XVII, 623. Collected at Dacca, the only part of Bengal in which we are aware of its occurrence. This reptile is common in Asám, Sylhet, Arakan, the Tenasserim provinces and Malayan peninsula.

2. CALOTES——? 3. EUPREPIS——? 4. POLYPEDATES——? Apparently three new species, from Chérra Punji; which we defer describing for the present, as we have numerous other new reptiles which it will be more convenient to describe together.

5. *TRIGONOCEPHALUS GRAMINEUS*, (Shaw). Young, 13 in. long, of the Malayan variety with defined whitish lateral line. From Sylhet. This small individual had bitten a labouring man, but the wound merely caused a painful swelling in the arm, which, however, did not prevent the patient from returning to his work after a few hours; *i. e.* in the afternoon of the day during which he was bitten in the course of the morning. This agrees with the remarks upon the venom of three species of *TRIGONOCEPHALUS* in *J. A. S.* XVI, 1044 *et seq.**

[We may here describe the following remarkable Bat, purchased with a miscellaneous collection made at Darjiling.

LASIURUS PEARSONII, Horsfield.† Length about $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., of which the tail measures $1\frac{1}{4}$ in., having its extreme tip exerted. Head $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Ears (posteriorly) $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. from tip to tip. Expanse about 13 in. Fore-arm $1\frac{7}{8}$ in.: tarse $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Head broad and short: the ears broad, subovate, widely separated apart; and the tragus small, narrow and elongated. Teeth very robust; the grinders antero-posteriorly compressed, with the *carnassiez* contiguous to the canine above and below, and the canines less elongated than in the *NYCTICEJI*: there are four incisors above, of which the outer or lateral are much smaller than the others. Fur soft and extremely dense, of a uniform rufous-brown above and dingy greyish below, with conspicuous hoary tips a little curling, more especially upon the head, shoulders, and breast. The membranes are dusky, and the alar is attached to the base of the outer hind-toe. The lateral membranes near the body, and the whole interfemoral, are somewhat plentifully covered with brownish-rufous fur, more scant on the interfemoral, and very dense at the base of the tail above, being continued throughout its length, and also along the hind-limbs, with the feet and calcanea. Excepting in having two pairs of upper incisors, this species seems to agree generically with the *LASIURI*, Rafin., of N. America, or *VESP. PRUINOSUS* and *V. RUFUS* (*v. noveboracensis*), auctorum].

* *Notes by Mr. Frith.* "The man was bitten, as above mentioned, at about 10 A. M.; and when I saw him, at about 4 P. M., he was at his work, and the swelling (which had been somewhat considerable) had by that time almost subsided.

"As regards *Talpa leucura* (p. 518), I do not say that it may not inhabit the valleys or lower lands of Chérra, that is to say, at the foot of the hills. The Khásias state that they never met with it there; but some of them at once recognised the animal as being like one found about two or three days' distance in the interior, but which they stated to be of a white colour."

We should here add that Mr. Frith has favoured the Society with a free selection from the above interesting collection.

† Since the above description had gone to press, we have received Dr. Horsfield's Catalogue of the Mammalia in the Hon. Company's museum, in which we find ourselves forestalled as regards the specific name.